

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065396

LIMDIS

TOSEC 931

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC TEHRAN INFO AMMAN ANKARA CAIRO
DAMASCUS TABRIZ USUN NEW YORK BAGHDAD FROM BEIRUT 22 MAR 75:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3547

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IZ IR US

SUBJ: BARZANI APPEALS FOR US PROTECTION

1. WASH POST'S JIM HOAGLAND APPROACHED EMBOFF MAR 22 TO RELAY
URGENT REQUEST TO USG FROM KURDISH LEADER MUSTAFA BARZANI, WHOM
HOAGLAND INTERVIEWED IN KURDISTAN NIGHT OF MAR 19-20. ACCORDING TO
HOAGLAND, BARZANI DESCRIBED KURDISH CAUSE AS HOPELESS AND SAID THAT
AS RESULT OF IRANIAN PRESSURE HE HAD ORDERED PESH MERGA TO LAY
DOWN THEIR ARMS TO PREVENT FURTHER USELESS BLOODSHED. AT SAME TIME,
HE APPEALED URGENTLY TO USG TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE VIS-A-VIS
IRAQI AND IRANIAN GOVTS TO PROTECT HIS PEOPLE FROM "GENOCIDE",
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AND HE ALSO REQUESTED ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES FOR HIMSELF,

HIS FAMILY AND HIS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES.

2. HOAGLAND DESCRIBED ATMOSPHERE AT BARZANI'S HEADQUARTERS AS EXTREMELY SOMBER, WITH IDRIS AND MAHMOUD BARZANI, MAHMOUD OTHMAN ET AL EXHIBITING "TOTAL DESPAIR" OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN IRAQ. (IN CONTRAST, BARZANI HIMSELF APPEARED UNRUFFLED AND ALMOST SERENE.) HOAGLAND SAID SOME PESH MERGA UNITS WERE ALREADY MOVING INTO IRAN AND SURRENDERING THEIR WEAPONS TO IRANIAN ARMY, BUT THAT CERTAIN OTHER UNITS WERE VOWING TO DISOBEY BARZANI'S ORDER AND TAKE TO HILLS TO CARRY ON STRUGGLE AGAINST IRAQI ARMY. BARZANI TOLD HOAGLAND IT WAS PLIGHT OF KURDISH CIVILIAN POPULATION THAT WORRIED HIM THE MOST, SINCE HE EXPECTED THEY WOULD SOON BE DEPRIVED OF ALL PROTECTION AGAINST HUNGER, DISEASE AND COLD, AS WELL AS SUBJECTED TO CRUELEST POSSIBLE TREATMENT AT HANDS OF IRAQI AUTHORITIES. ASKED BY HOAGLAND WHAT SPECIFIC ACTION USG MIGHT TAKE TO ALLEVIATE THIS SITUATION, BARZANI SUGGESTED USG SHOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PROLONG CURRENT CEASEFIRE AT LEAST ANOTHER MONTH, I.E., THROUGH END OF APRIL.

3. HOAGLAND ESTIMATES THAT BARZANI AND HIS CLOSEST FOLLOWERS HAVE PROBABLY LEFT NORTHERN IRAQ BY NOW AND TAKEN REFUGE IN IRAN. HE BELIEVES THEY INTEND TO RELINQUISH ALL CONTROL OVER FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQI KURDISTAN IN HOPE THAT THIS WILL SOMEHOW ALLOW REMAINING KURDISH LEADERS TO COME TO TERMS WITH BAGHDAD REGIME AND AVOID IRAQI VENGEANCE BEING VISITED ON KURDISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE.

4. MUCH OF FOREGOING WILL PROBABLY APPEAR IN WASH POST IN NEXT DAY OR TWO, BUT HOAGLAND WAS ANXIOUS TO BRING BARZANI'S APPEAL TO USG'S ATTENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GODLEY UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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